

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 EB-07 L-03 FPC-01 CIAE-00

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P 200110Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1447

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PASS EA/ANP

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, PP

SUBJ: ELCOM GENERAL MANAGER CLARIFIES GPNG POSITION ON  
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

REF: A. PORT MORESBY 0449, B. STATE 096829

1. IN FOLLOW-UP TO REFTEL, E/COFF CALLED ON ELCOM GENERAL MANAGER MAX DRYER MAY 18 AT HIS REQUEST. DRYER SHOWED E/COFF A LETTER FROM ROBERT PARTRIDGE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT NRECA WHICH STATED THAT NRECA WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTEMPT TO FIND FUNDS THROUGH THE AID VOLUNTARY PROGRAM ONCE HE RECEIVED A COMPLETED COPY OF AN "OPERATIONAL PROGRAM GRANT (OPG) PROPOSAL OUTLINE."

2. ON THIS BASIS (THE OPG PROPOSAL OUTLINE WILL FOLLOW), DRYER WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF SIR MAORI KIKI TO FOLLOWING LETTER ADDRESSED TO PARTRIDGE: "FOLLOWING THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CONFERENCE WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY ONE OF OUR MINISTERS, THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. M. T. SOMARE, REQUESTED OF THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF NRECA SPECIALISTS TO CARRY OUT THREE STAGE 2 AND 3 INVESTIGATIONS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN PNG.

3. "WE HAVE ALREADY ENGAGED NRECA TO CARRY OUT A STAGE 1

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SURVEY AND THEY HAVE SELECTED, IN THEIR REPORT, A NUMBER OF

LOCATIONS FOR INVESTIGATION AND COMPARISON BEFORE ANY PILOT PROJECT IS PLANNED.

4. "REGRETFULLY IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PROPER WAY TO REQUEST SUCH AID WAS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO WRITE TO YOUR ORGANIZATION AND REQUEST AN OPERATIONAL PROGRAM GRANT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PHASE 2 AND 3 INVESTIGATIONS OF THREE WIDELY SEPARATED AREAS AND EVENTUALLY THE FINAL SELECTION OF A PILOT PROJECT AREA. WE HAVE OUR OFFICERS CURRENTLY PREPARING THE OPG AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH THIS REQUEST.

5. "WE ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYING NRECA ON THE STAGE 2 AND 3 INVESTIGATION OF ONE LIKELY AREA IN NEW BRITAIN AND WE WILL CONTINUE WITH LIKE PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS EVEN WITHOUT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, THE PROJECT WOULD TAKE MANY YEARS LONGER UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. "WE WILL WRITE TO YOU AGAIN WHEN COMPLETE DETAILS OF THE OPG ARE AVAILABLE." COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE SIGNED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER SIR MAORI KIKI.

7. DRYER ALSO SAID THAT BEFORE SIGNING THIS LETTER SIR MAORI OBTAINED THE APPROVAL OF THE PM.

8. JACK KARUKURU WILL BE VISITING EA/ANP APPROXIMATELY MAY 20 AND WILL HAVE RECEIVED TELEGRAPHIC COPY OF THIS LETTER THROUGH PNG AMBASSADOR MATANE. ORIGINAL LETTER WAS AIR MAILED MAY 17.

9. EMBASSY IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, ATTEMPTING AN END RUN ON THIS PROJECT. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT KNOW WHETHER VOLUNTARY AGENCY FUNDING WAS CONSIDERED IN STATE/AID PRIOR TO SENDING REF B. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHETHER VOLAG FUNDING CAN, UNDER EXISTING LAW AND REGULATIONS BE UTILIZED FOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THIS. WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO LIVE WITH POLICY AS ENUNCIATED IN REF B. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT STATE/AID SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT GPNG IS MAKING ABOVE APPROACH TO NRECA.

10. EMBASSY BELIEVES EA/ANP SHOULD DISCUSS THE ENTIRE ISSUE THOROUGHLY WITH NRECA OFFICIALS PARTRIDGE AND KABAT, KARUKURU AND MATANE BEFORE POLICY DECISION IS REACHED. IF REQUEST CAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE PRESENTED IN FORM PALATABLE TO ALL INTERESTED U.S. AGENCIES, THE DEPARTMENT MAY FIND, IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE, THAT APPROVAL CAN BE GIVEN WITHOUT SETTING ANY PRECEDENT IN PNG THINKING FOR THE FUTURE.

11. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED AS DRYER IS IN FREQUENT TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION WITH NRECA WASHINGTON AND USUALLY HAS INFORMATION WE DON'T HAVE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE  
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